

April 5, 1983

LB 142, 170, 306, 560,  
630

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, if I may right before that, Senator Johnson would like to print amendments to LB 630; Senator Abboud to LB 560. LB 170 and 306 are reported to Select File.

Mr. President, Senator Cullan would move to indefinitely postpone the bill. That will lay it over unless the introducer agrees to take it up at this time.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chronister, do you wish to have it laid over? Okay, we will wait for you to make up your mind. Senator Cullan, do you wish to speak to it? Senator Chronister says we will go with it now.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I move for the indefinite postponement of LB 142. From the votes that have been cast, it is unlikely that there will be the strength to indefinitely postpone this measure but perhaps further discussion of the issue will lead us to a point where we will at least not advance this legislation. In my opinion, LB 142 in its current form is the most threatening piece of legislation to the quality of health care in the State of Nebraska that I have seen in the six years that I have been in the Nebraska Legislature. What we have done to a large extent is to recognize these very narrowly trained individuals to be health care practitioners and to perform services for the public which they are obviously not qualified to perform. In the discussions that we have had previously, I made the allegation and I made it strongly that chiropractors do not have the same experience in diagnosis and that they have virtually no clinical experience. That statement was not rebutted by Senator Chronister or others who support LB 142. In fact, they only went back to address the number of classroom hours of experience that the chiropractors receive. I ask you to take a careful look at the language of the amendment that we have adopted and you will see in the language of that amendment, which now is LB 142, that chiropractors are allowed to perform diagnostic functions. We are etching out a scope of practice for chiropractors which is so broad that they can become involved in many, many more areas than they currently are involved in and we are providing them with a legal basis to allow them to move in this area and this scope of practice. There are other reasons other than threats to the safety of the people of the State of Nebraska that must generate some concern for us, and one of those is the impact on health care costs. We have heard editorial writers in the State of Nebraska recently criticize the Nebraska Legislature very strongly for our inattention to health care